With regard to the Cardamom Rules, you may rest assured that Government will always bear in mind the interests of the Travancorean planter. In fact, one of the reasons which induced Government to pass the prohibition order in 1096 was itself their solicitude for the Travancorean planter. After the completion of the Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road, when that part of the country is opened up, Government will consider the desirability of relaxing the order of 1096.

You referred to the dual control over these lands now exercised by the Land Revenue Department and the Forest Department. In the nature of the tenure that is created in favour of the cardamom planters, it seems to me that it is inevitable that both the Land Revenue Department and the Forest Department should have control over these lands. As a matter of fact, the control of the Forest Department is reduced to a minimum. So far as the trees are concerned, you know they remain the property of the Government and it is the province of the Forest Department to conserve the interests of Government in timber. The control of the Forest Department over cardamom lands is only for the benefit of that conservation of Government rights over timber. As the position is at present, it is not possible for the Government to take away the little control that the Forest Department has over these lands; and for the present, therefore, this dual control, as you call it, has to be maintained.

MEMBER: But cannot the whole control over these lands be vested in one department?

DEWAN: Revenue matters cannot be handed over to the Forest Department and therefore it is that the control of the Forest Department is reduced to the absolute minimum. I do not think this restricted control which the Forest Department has is causing real hardship.

MEMBER: It does. There are difficulties in regard to felling timber.

DEWAN: Your difficulty with regard to the felling of trees does not affect the control vested in the Forest Department, because it is the Land Revenue Department which allows the felling of trees. The Forest Department is only concerned with the transport of timber and it is a right which cannot be taken away from the Forest Department.

6. Grievances of the ryots in respect of the present mode of realisation of land revenue and some suggestions for redressing them.

MR. A. K. GOVINDA DAS (*Nominated*) thanked the Government for nominating men of status of his community to the Assembly and also conveyed the assurance of loyalty of members of his community to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and to His Highness the Maha Raja.

Speaking on his subject, the member first referred to the vagaries practised by the *pakuthi* subordinates in recovering arrears of land revenue. Demand notices were unnecessarily issued but not properly

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

served on the right persons. More than one notice was issued in some cases. The demand notice fee recovered was considerable and in some cases much more than the tax due. There was no uniformity in recovering *tom-tom* charges. While under the rules the fee to be paid was only 14 chs., it was not uncommon for *proverthicars* to recover Re. 1 or even Rs. 2 as they chose. Movables were attached without notice and large sums were recoevred as cost of attachment and other incidental charges. Similarly large extents of immovable property were attached and sold for small amounts of arrears. Sometimes the property of one person was attached and sold for the tax due from another. All these were due to the defective system of accounts in the *Pakuthy cutcherries* and the delay in the disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases, issue of *pattas* and making the *Tandaper* accounts up to date. The low pay of the subordinates was also a contributory cause. With a view to remove the hardships caused on the above account, the member suggested the following remedial measures :—

(1) one or two able officers of the Land Revenue Department should be deputed to study the land revenue system in British India and make suggestions to improve the administration of the department;

(2) graduates belonging to well-to-do families should be appointed as *Proverthikars* and the existing *Proverthikars* should be appointed as *Pakuthi* accountants ;

(3) the demand notice fee should be reduced to one chackram;

(4) sale of immovable properties should be conducted only after service of notices ;

(5) the procedure followed in civil courts for the sale of immovable properties should be adopted by the Land Revenue Department ;

(6) monthly returns of disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases should be obtained from the *Proverthikars* ; and

(7) a *Pokkuvaravu* special officer should be appointed with jurisdiction over the whole State to attend to the speedy disposal of cases.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Govinda Das, I shall be very glad to convey your assurance of loyalty to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and to His Highness the Maha Raja.

Your main complaint is that *pokkuvaravu* cases are not being posed of soon, and that consequently members of *tarwads* who b divided find themselves constrained to pay taxes which are due other divided members of the *tarwad*. I know that the Land Rev Commissioner is very strict in the matter of the speedy disposal *pokkuvaravu* cases by his subordinates. As a matter of fact, the statisti for last year, that is 1104, show that more than 92 per cent. of the app cations for *pokkuvaravu* in that year were disposed of before the end the year. I can understand that in some cases there is some difficult that is, in cases where partition is said to have been effected by a, fe members of the *tarwad*. In regard to such cases, the question wheth such partition is valid, whether it will bind all the members of th

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

wad is a legal question which has been referred to Government by Land Revenue Commissioner. The question is under the considera- n of the Government and I expect to pass some definite orders in the tter before long.

You then complain that, in some cases, though under the rules only chs. could be realised by the *pakuthi* authorities as *tom-tom* fees, they one rupee and two rupees as they choose. That is a vague allega- which Government can do nothing. If you bring to the Revenue Commissioner any specific instance of such ation of excessive *tom-tom* fees, he would certainly e of it and hold an enquiry; and if he finds any person deal with him very severely.

laid that, instead of one notice, sometimes two notices are matter of fact, there is any case in which two or more een issued, it must be easy to prove it; and if any such ht to the notice of the Land Revenue Commissioner, he rious notice of it.

her suggestions will be carefully noted by Government.

nt of further concessions to Pulayas in the matter of grant- s for their habitation.

AYYAN KALI (*Nominated*) while thanking the Government veral concessions granted to the Pulayas in the matter of of lands said that the community had still some grievances to be d. Lands earmarked for registry in the names of depressed were often occupied by members of other communities, with the hat the occupied lands had to be registered in the names of the Even in respect of lands already registered under the concession- as, the rich and influential people of other communities set up and dragged the depressed classes to unnecessary litigation. He requested that orders might be issued prohibiting occupation of marked for registry to depressed classes and of lands already in their names by members of other communities.

re the passing of the existing Puduval Rules, survey charges in lands registered to depressed classes used to be remitted. But ose rules, such charges were being recovered. He requested that cession might be revived.

vevulty was being experienced by the depressed classes in tural loans. Orders should therefore be issued to grant on the security of the lands granted on concessional r, when concessional registries were ordered, a loan of at uld also be issued in each case.

litigation was launched against depressed classes by others as registered on concessional terms, no court fees should m the former.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly